GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2477
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
MOBILE CONNECTIONS IN BIHAR AND JHARKHAND
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile connections provided by Cellone and other companies in each State specifically in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years and in current year;

(b) whether there is inequality in the demand and supply of mobile services and due to non-availability of mobile connections, the black marketing of Sim Cards is taking place;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The number of mobile connections provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other service providers in Bihar Telecom service area (including Jharkhand state) for the last three years and in current year as on 31.10.2004 is given in the Annexure.

(b) to (d) There is a gap between demand and supply for Pre-paid mobile connections of BSNL in some part of the country. To take care of such gap, BSNL has placed purchase order for 12 million cellular lines including 4.55 lakhs lines for Bihar and 2.5 lakhs lines for Jharkhand. It will be then possible to provide mobile connection on demand. To avoid any complaint, BSNL has started maintaining list in some of the service areas. Inequality in demand and supply by other licensees has not been reported.

Annexure

(A) The status of mobile service being provided by Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) operators in Bihar (including Jharkhand) service area for last three years and as on 31.10.2004 is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee company	Date of grant of licence	Date of start of service	No. of subscribers as on 31.3.2002	No. of subscribers as on 31.3.2003	No. of subscribers as on 31.3.2004	No. of subscribers as on 31.10.2004
1	M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd	12.12.1995	20.11.1997	1,15,059	2,1,84,211	2,57,98	3,08,91
2	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	21.03.2002	26.01.2002	8,056	76,325	2,57,653	3,73,823

(B) The status of mobile service being provided by Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) operators in Bihar (including Jharkhand) Telecom service area for last three years and as on 31.10.2004 is given below:-

(i) M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd under Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) have started mobile service in Bihar Telecom Circle in the year of 2003. The mobile subscriber base of M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd as on 31.10.2004 is 1,65,077.

(ii) M/s Disnet DSL Ltd have not yet started mobile service in Bihar.

(iii) M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd have recently started services in Jamshedpur in Bihar on 27.11.2004 and have about 1000 subscribers as on 30.11.2004.

(iv) M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd have not yet started mobile service in Bihar.